

SOME SPECIES OF CLERIDAE FROM NEW CALEDONIA * (COLEOPTERA)

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The Clerid-specimens collected by the Melanesia Expedition of the Osaka Museum of Natural History, New Caledonia, 1958 were submitted to me for identification. The collection was consisted of sixteen specimens belonging to three species. Two species of them have hitherto been known from New Caledonia but one appears to be undescribed and will be named herewith.

Before going further, I wish to express my cordial thanks to Mr. I. Hiura and Mr. Y. Miyatake of the Museum, who gave me a chance to study the interesting material of Cleridae from New Caledonia. And I must thank to Prof. T. Ishihara and Mr. S. Hisamatsu for their constant encouragement and kind help.

Subfamily Clerinae

Pseudolesterus gen. nov.

Body elongate, parallel-sided, rather depressed. Head transverse; vertex and frons wide; eyes of moderate size, not so prominent, finely faceted, distinctly but narrowly emarginate near antennal base; fronto-clypeal suture distinct, clypeus short; labrum apparently bilobed. Antennae short, not reaching the base of prothorax, 11-segmented, 1st stout, thickened towards apex and slightly curved, 2nd subglobular, about one-half the 1st, 3rd to 5th elongate, subequal in size, 6th to 8th slightly shorter successively, 9th to 11th forming a compact club, 9th and 10th subequal in length, about two times as wide as 8th, 11th obliquely oval, shorter than two precedings combined, acuminate apically. Mandibles with a short submedian tooth; last segment of labial palpus dilated apically and obliquely truncate; that of maxillary palpus acuminate-cylindrical, more than two times as long as thick. Gular sutures slightly divergent behind. Prothorax about as wide as head including eyes, about as long as wide, almost parallel-sided, except base which is strongly constricted; anterior transverse impression more or less distinct and strongly curved posteriorly; posterior impression distinct, lying on the basal constriction, broad, and levigate. Scutellum small and roundish. Elytra covering abdomen in usual, elongate but not slender, almost parallel-sided or slightly widened behind hind leg, apex broadly rounded, each with ten rows of large and deep punctures except apical portion which is irregularly punctured.

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Prosternum with intercoxal process narrow and its apex expanded, protruding coxae; front coxal cavities entirely closed behind. Mesosternum short. Metasternum moderately inflated. Abdomen with six visible sternites, apical segments not conspicuously modified in either sex. Legs rather long, especially so in hind pair; front femora thickened, robust, middle femora less thickened, hind femora longest, clavate, reaching the apex of elytra or nearly so; tibiae rather slender, each as long as femur, not or slightly curved, tibial spurs 1, 2, 2; tarsi with 1st segment small, lying beneath 2nd in all legs; front and middle tarsi short and broad, with 2nd to 4th dilated apically and broadly lobed below, hind tarsi slender, with 2nd elongate, compressed, and slightly dilated apically and lobed below, 3rd half as long as 2nd, 4th slightly shorter than 3rd; claws slender, curved, with a feeble tooth at base.

Type species : *Pseudolesterus novacaledonicus* sp. nov.

This type species recalls me certain species of the Australian genus, *Olesterus* SPINOLA, 1841, in appearance, but owing to the entirely closed front coxal cavities, the bilobed labrum, and the cylindrical maxillary palpi, it cannot be associated with *Olesterus*, in which the front coxal cavities are open behind, the labrum is entire, and the last segment of maxillary palpi is distinctly seculiform. Because of the cylindrical maxillary palpi, the Australian *O. ventralis* (WESTWOOD, 1852) does not belong to *Olesterus*, as suggested by SCHENKLING (1916), but presumably to this new genus.

***Pseudolesterus novacaledonicus* sp. nov. (Fig. 1)**

Piceous black with a slight bluish tinge; antennae reddish brown with clubs pale orange-brown, labrum and mouth-parts including palpi yellowish to reddish brown, sometimes last segment of maxillary palpi darkened, mandibles piceous black at apical portions; clypeus and antennal sockets usually dark reddish brown; in the largest female specimen frons with an obtriangular patch dark reddish brown behind clypeus; scutellum piceous to piceous black, often reddish brown. Elytra each with three markings made up of depressed silvery-whitish hairs: a short, narrow, more or less curved and transverse or oblique fascia before middle, extending from lateral margin to the 4th row of large punctures, hairs of which are dense and mainly directed inwardly, a small spot on the 3rd and 4th rows of large punctures before the fascia, hairs of which are short, sparse, and thin, this spot sometimes absent; an oblique, broad but not clearly defined, fascia on the base of the apical smooth portion, hairs of which are somewhat sparse and directed outwardly or backwards. Undersurface piceous black with a bluish tinge, apical part of prosternal process and last sternite of abdomen more or less yellowish or reddish brown; metasternum with a large patch of depressed silvery-whitish hairs on each posterior corner. Legs piceous, with a slight bluish tinge on femora, apices of tibiae and tarsi more or less yellowish brown, trochanters and basal portion of femora of hind legs reddish brown.

Head coarsely and very closely punctured and rather densely clothed with short, thin, subdepressed, greyish hairs on the whole part and few longer and erect hairs near eyes; frons more or less feebly depressed and slightly raised medially on the anterior portion; in the holotype frons distinctly bi-impressed between eyes and convex between the impressions; clypeus irregularly coarsely punctured and sparsely with long shining whitish hairs. Pronotum about as wide as head including eyes, as long as wide, widest at middle, where the sides are slightly rounded, strongly wrinkled with very coarse, uneven, and confluent punctures; a small but deep fovea at centre, in one specimen this fovea absent; anterior transverse impression somewhat obscure, owing to a rough sculpture of surface, and strongly curved before the dorsal fovea; posterior impression broad, rather shallow, smooth, and with two small pits on each lateral side, which are subequal in size; surface not so densely clothed with very thin greyish hairs, most of which are short and subdepressed and few are long and suberect. Scutellum roundish, usually finely and closely, sometimes very sparsely and unevenly, punctured and clothed with a few short hairs. Elytra elongate and rather depressed, a little wider than prothorax, slightly widened posteriorly, about 2.8 times as long as wide at their base, each with ten rows of large, deep, and subquadrate punctures, terminating at apical smooth portion in an oblique line, of which the sutural row reaches beyond the middle and the lateral row reaches about three-fourths of the elytral length; intervals very thin, somewhat hive-like, the base of the 2nd raised as to form an elongate callosity; apical portion with shallow grooves as traces of punctual rows and fine and rather sparse punctures; surface clothed with short, very sparse, thin, suberect greyish hairs on the strongly punctured basal portion, and with short, subdepressed hairs on the apical portion, a few long hairs on the basal callosities. Undersurface: Prosternum not visibly punctured but finely transversely wrinkled on the median part, intercoxal process very narrow and keeled except the apical part, which is strongly expanded and somewhat rugose and hairy; mesosternum transversely rugose with coarse and

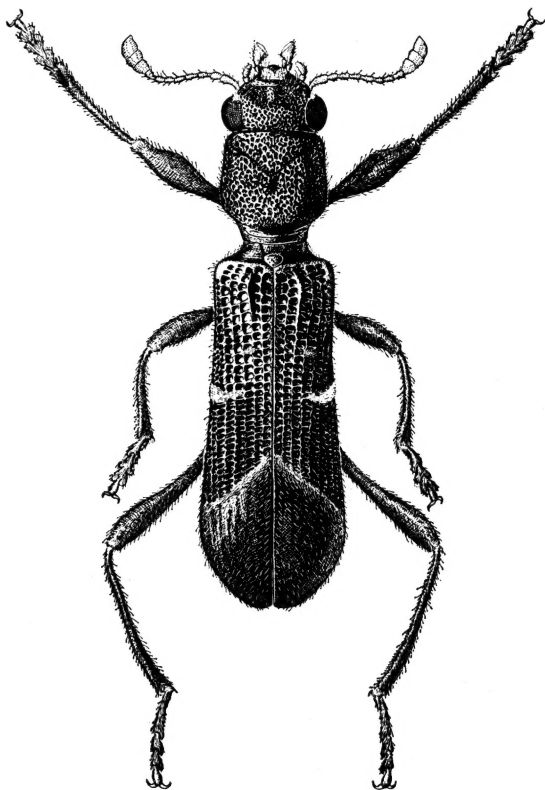


Fig. 1. *Pseudolesterus novacaledonicus* gen. et sp. nov.

irregular punctures on the middle, mesepisternum distinctly and closely punctured; metasternum rugosely punctured on each side of the median suture and very sparsely and finely punctured on the lateral portions; abdominal sternites finely and rather sparsely, exceptionally closely on the 4th, punctured; surface rather sparsely clothed with sub-depressed greyish hairs. Legs with femora and tibiae rugosely punctured and rather densely clothed with short and shining whitish hairs and longer and greyish hairs.

Male : Fifth abdominal sternite broadly emarginate behind, 6th also narrowly emarginate.

Female : Fifth abdominal sternite subtruncate or feebly emarginate behind, 6th short, broadly rounded behind and subtruncate medially.

Holotype ♀. Length ca. 6.7 mm; width of head including eyes ca. 1.3 mm; maximum width of elytra ca. 1.65 mm.

Paratypes ♂♂. Length 4.6—6.5 mm; width of head including eyes 0.95—1.3 mm; maximum width of elytra 1.2—1.6 mm.

Paratypes ♀♀. Length 5.3—7.6 mm; width of head including eyes 1.1—1.6 mm; maximum width of elytra 1.5—1.9 mm.

Holotype ♀. Koghis, New Caledonia, 12. X. 1958, Y. Shibata leg. Paratypes : 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀, the same data as the holotype; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, the same locality, 11. X. 1958, Y. Shibata leg.; 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Vao, Ile des Pins, New Caledonia, 11. XI. 1958, Y. Shibata leg.

The holotype and most of the paratypes are preserved in the collection of the Osaka Museum of Natural History, and the rest of the paratypes are in my collection.

Omadius castelnaui MONTROUZIER

Omadius castelnaui MONTROUZIER, 1860, Ann. Soc. ent. France (3) 8 : 260 (New Caledonia : Lifou) ; KUWERT, 1894, Ann. Soc. ent. Belg. 38 : 75; FAUVEL, 1904, Rev. d'Ent. 23 : 145—146; HELLER, 1916, Nova Caledonia, Zool. 2 (3) : 244 (New Caledonia, Loyalty Is.) ; CORPORAAL, 1937, Occasional Papers Bishop Mus. 13 (3) : 14.

Omadius palliditarsis CHEVROLAT, 1876, Mém. Clér. 27 (New Caledonia).

Specimens examined : 1 ♂, 1 ♀. Amoa, New Caledonia, 19. XI. 1958, Y. Shibata leg.

Distribution : New Caledonia, Loyalty Is.

Subfamily Korynetinae

Necrobia rufipes (DEGEER)

Clerus rufipes DEGEER, 1775, Mémoires, 5 : 165, t. 15, f. 4.

Necrobia rufipes : FAUVEL, 1904, Rev. d'Ent. 23 : 147; HELLER, 1916, Nova Caledonia, Zool. 2 (3) : 244; CORPORAAL, 1937, Occasional Papers Bishop Mus. 13 (3) : 17.

Specimen examined : 1 ♂. Nouméa. New Caledonia, 2. XI. 1958, Y. Shibata leg.

Distribution : New Caledonia; Cosmopolitan.